

Billings (J. T.)

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GOUT AND NEURALGIA,
AND
THEIR CURE.

BY
JOHN T. BILLINGS,
PHARMACEUTIST,

MEMBER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

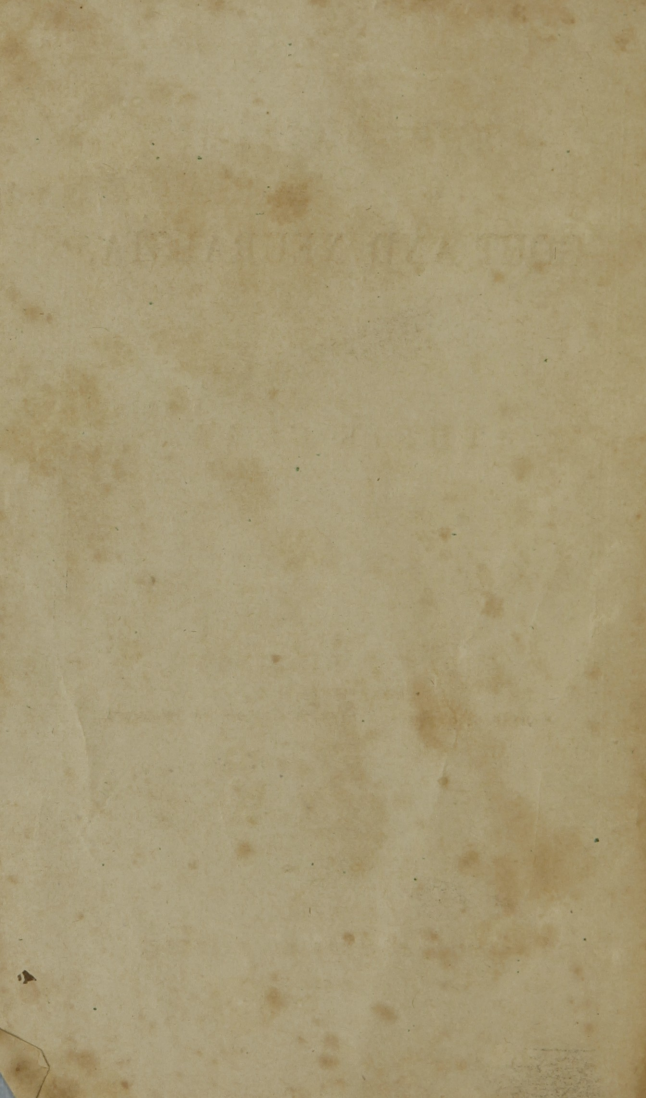
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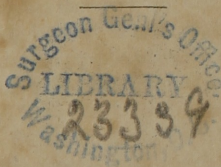
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RHEUMATISM, GOUT, ETC.

IN PRESENTING to the public a remedy for the treatment and cure of Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, etc., no extended apology is needed. Multitudes of people suffer from Rheumatism. Perhaps no other disease affects all nations and races in common so much as Rheumatism; there being scarcely a district upon the Globe where its presence is not felt. In our own country it is most prevalent along the sea coast, extending its ravages back into the interior, and gradually diminishing in severity as it approaches the Prairie Lands of the West.

Vast numbers who suffer from this affection, have failed to get relief from sources at their command; and it becomes, therefore, an object of humanity, as well as public interest to bring before them a remedy, prepared from experience, upon which they may always rely as being safe, effectual and harmless to the constitution. That such is the character of "Billings' Rheumatic Pills and Liniment" is attested by the extraordinary success with which they have been employed. Perhaps the reader may not spend a few moments to better advantage, than in reading the following remarks concerning Rheumatism, its causes, nature, treatment and cure.

RHEUMATISM is a disease respecting the nature and treatment of which there has existed the greatest diversity of opinion, and the least amount of undisputed knowledge.

The remarkable prevalence of the malady, this diversity of opinion and the several important pathological relations suggested to every thinking physician by each manifestation of the affection, have caused us to direct investigation to the subject with greater energy than has hitherto been bestowed upon it, and with more success than has hitherto signalized it.

It has been the practice of most writers to recommend bleeding and Calomel. Some advocate profuse sweating, and one writer enumerates one hundred and thirty different remedies—to be employed internally, and some forty different articles that may be used externally. But this style of experimenting, and this indiscriminate use of medicines is not pleasant to the patient, if it be so to the physician. Severe and hazardous treatment of disease is not needed. The true and skilful physician patiently watches its manifestations, and minutely studies its nature, seeking to know what he has to deal with, ere he begins to operate; and when he thoroughly understands it, he is pleased to find that its cure requires only simple means, and safe medicines.

By personal study and research, aided by the experience and counsel of some of the ablest medical and pharmaceutical talent of the times, we have arrived at many new and important conclusions in regard to the causes and nature of Rheumatism. The remedies have been prepared in accordance with our theory, and their universal success proves its soundness.

In most cases the primary exciting cause of Rheumatism is COLD. The disease is sometimes complicated with catarrh, both proceeding from the same cause, cold. Rheumatism is usually accompanied by more or less derangement of the liver, and the disease can be most readily reached internally through the medium of the liver. Rheumatism takes the right of way over the whole system; traversing the muscles throughout their various and intricate ramifications, coursing through the blood, and sometimes paying a fatal visit to the heart.

Rheumatism may be *acute* or *chronic*.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM is the inflammatory Rheumatism, or what is commonly known as Rheumatic Fever.

This form of Rheumatism usually comes on with the ordinary symptoms of fever; soon after which, or simultaneously, or even before the appearance of febrile signs, excruciating pains are felt in different parts of the body, particularly in the larger joints, which are more or less red and swollen; the pain shifting from one to the other, at times with great rapidity. A peculiarity of the disease is, that the skin may be covered daily with a profuse perspiration, although it feels extremely hot, and the pulse appears in no way modified by it. Children under ten years of age are seldom attacked by this form of the disease; the period of life at which it is most prevalent is from ten to forty years of age. Whenever in the course of acute Rheumatism, pain and oppression in the region of the heart, difficult or hurried breathing, palpitation, increased frequency of the pulse, and an anxious, disturbed or peculiar expression of the countenance are observed, you may expect that the disease has pene-

trated to the heart. No time must now be lost in pursuing the following course: with a stiff brush, (a hair or clothes brush will do if none better be at hand), rub the chest vigorously until it appears quite red, then apply the Rheumatic Liniment and keep the part saturated with it. In nine cases out of ten this treatment will save the life of the patient, and if something of this kind is not done, death will inevitably ensue. Many writers contend that Rheumatism does not attack the heart. If a person suffering from Rheumatism, dies from an apparent affection of the heart, they affirm that they die of "disease of the heart," being entirely distinct from Rheumatism. A more false doctrine was never proclaimed; the popular belief that Rheumatism may strike to the heart is as true as is the existence of the disease.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM is usually unaccompanied by inflammation. Persons suffering from chronic Rheumatism can frequently foretell a storm, from the pains produced by the damp, cold winds that precede it. The pains of chronic Rheumatism are not as severe as those of acute Rheumatism, but they are more persistent in their character, and oftentimes it seems almost an impossibility to get rid of them. The old are peculiarly liable to chronic Rheumatism. Cold being the exciting cause of Rheumatism, of course protection from cold is the best preventive of the disease, and flannel worn next the skin is one of the best means of protection. The muscles of all healthy persons are moist and elastic, but the muscles of a person suffering from Rheumatism become stiff and dry. By this the muscles only of the affected limb or joint are meant; for Rheumatism is to a certain extent a local disease, and a

person may have severe Rheumatic pains in one arm or shoulder, and no other part of the body be affected. Being stiff and dry, these muscles do not contract without causing pain. They are in this condition in consequence of the presence of an acid, which proves an obstruction to the circulation of matter necessary to the health and proper lubrication of the muscles. In the instructions for using the Pills and Liniment, the drinking of soda dissolved in water is directed. Some may suppose that so common an article as soda water can be of little use. But soda oftentimes performs a part in the curing of Rheumatism, and although not absolutely necessary in connection with the Pills and Liniment, the patient is advised to use it, when it can be done without inconvenience.

Gout. The evident cause of Gout is high living, but the direct cause is similar to that of Rheumatism, and, as in cases of Rheumatism, foreign matter is detected in the system of gouty persons. An attack of Gout most commonly comes on an hour or two after midnight. The patient who has gone to bed in his usual health is awakened by a violent pain in one of his feet, mostly in the first joint, or ball of the great toe; but sometimes the pain is greater in other parts of the foot. The pain grows more and more intolerable, and is spoken of by those who suffer it as amounting to torture. A humorous Frenchman thus describes it:—“Place,” said he, “your joint in a vice and screw it up until you can endure it no longer. That is Rheumatism; then, give the instrument another twist and you have Gout.” Gout is often hereditary. Gouty persons are often subject to disorders of the urinary organs, which commonly begin

to manifest themselves after the Gout has troubled the patient for some time. The main point of difference between Gout and Rheumatism is, that Gout chiefly affects the small joints, especially the joint of the great toe, while Rheumatism affects the large joints. Gout usually affects one joint only at a time, Rheumatism often many at once. Persons predisposed to Gout, are daily liable to incur it from very slight immediate causes. But an attack of Gout can be cured by following the annexed directions for cases of Gout; and by taking one pill every night at the hour of retiring—the liability of its recurrence will be greatly diminished.

NEURALGIA. Under this head is comprised what is called Tic Doloieux and Sciatica. The affection is termed Tic Doloieux when it exists in the face. The pains of Neuralgia are sharp, sudden, twinging, like an electric shock in its momentary duration. Sometimes it is attended by a feeling of cramp. It differs from Rheumatism, from the fact that the pains are more sharp, and from the absence of redness and inflammation. Although Neuralgia is exclusively an affection of the nerves, it derives its origin from a source similar to that of Rheumatism. The want of the proper amount of iron in the system is what gives Neuralgia its intensity and peculiarly painful twinge, and in the directions iron is recommended to be used in connection with the Pills and Liniment. Most cases of severe Neuralgia would have been Rheumatism, had the system contained its proper amount of iron. We have seldom known a case of Neuralgia fail of being cured by first administering the iron, and afterwards treating the case as Rheumatism. There is a kind

of Face Ache, which is not Neuralgia, though it is often supposed to be. It usually affects the jaw and the nerves connected therewith. The cause is bad teeth. This species of pain and "the Toothache" can be immediately stopped by bathing the face, gums and teeth with "*Billings' Toothache Drops.*"

The names we give our remedies are not high sounding or unintelligible, but are exactly expressive of the uses for which they are intended.

In the preparation of these articles the proprietor has been careful to exclude everything of a deleterious nature. The Pills contain no Mercury, Potash, Quinine, Morphine, or any of those mischievous medicines which are too often employed in the treatment of Rheumatism. The Liniment contains no smarting ammonia or any of those fiery and corroding oils, that to a greater or less extent enter into the composition of most Liniments. Its virtue consists not in being harsh and irritating, but in its peculiar medicinal properties, and their remarkable susceptibility of absorption. For all the purposes of a Family Liniment it is unsurpassed. The proprietor has in his possession and might publish many letters and certificates from persons who have derived great benefit from these preparations; but it savors so much of quackery that he is averse to pursuing such a course. The certificates are voluntarily furnished from those who have been cured of the various forms of the disease, such as Rheumatic Fever, Chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia &c.; they are genuine and natural, such as sane persons would write, yet in comparison with the certificates of charlatans and nostrum venders, sound exceedingly tame. It is the proprietors' theory that Rheu-

matism is reached through the medium of the Liver, therefore his Pills are more particularly adapted to that organ. These Pills, operating upon the Liver to cure Rheumatism will also operate upon the Liver to cure all Liver diseases. Taken in doses of three or four pills they produce a thorough cathartic effect, operating upon the Liver, Stomach and Bowels. Taken in doses of one pill they are a most effectual alterative. The small size of the pills is a strong recommendation in their favor.

DIRECTIONS FOR CASES OF RHEUMATIC FEVER, OR INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM. If the patient be an adult, take three pills for the first dose. Six hours afterward drink a tumblerful of soda water, made in the proportion of a teaspoonful of soda to a tumblerful of water. During this first twenty-four hours' treatment the Liniment should be frequently applied and well rubbed in to the affected parts. At the expiration of the twenty-four hours the patient will feel decidedly better, the Pills having caused an operation of the bowels, and, in connection with the Liniment, commenced their action upon the system. Then take one pill every twelve hours, apply the Liniment as often, and drink a tumblerful of Soda Water once a day. The same directions apply to children, except that two instead of three pills should be given for the first dose.

DIRECTIONS FOR CASES OF CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

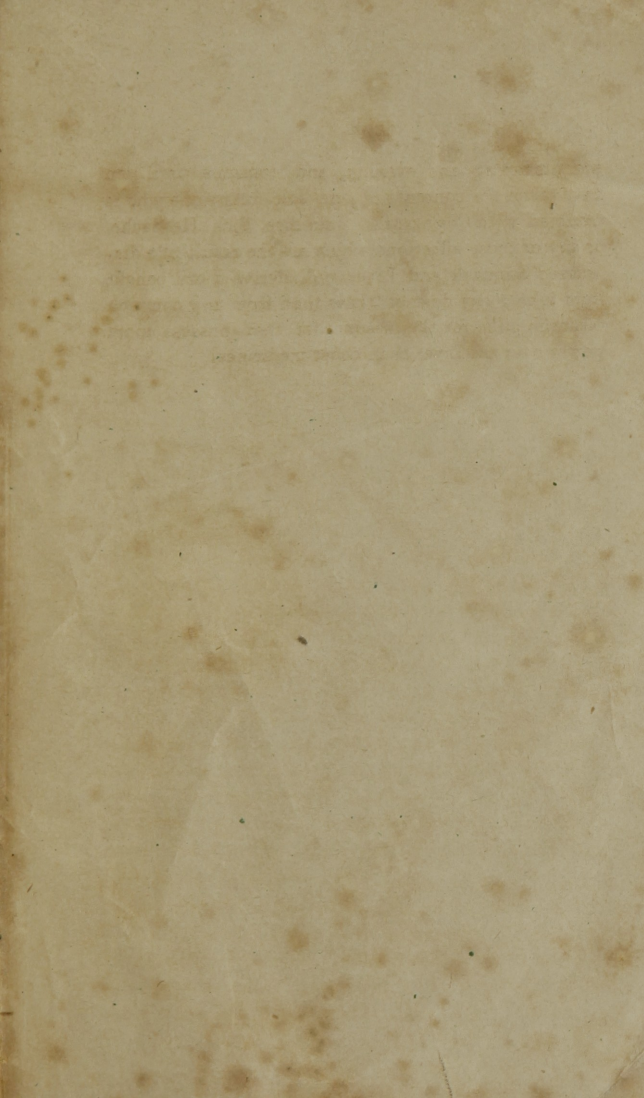
Take one or two pills every morning and evening. The Liniment should be thoroughly applied three or four times a day. If convenient, drink a tumblerful of Soda Water once a day. Desperate cases of Chronic Rheumatism will generally yield to the above treatment.

DIRECTIONS FOR CASES OF GOUT. First take three Pills; afterward take one pill every twelve hours; drink a tumblerful of soda water once a day; and apply the Liniment daily. Follow these directions closely and in a few days the paroxysm will disappear.

DIRECTIONS FOR CASES OF NEURALGIA. Take one Pill every twelve hours. Six hours after taking the first Pill take a teaspoonful of Precipitated Carbonate of Iron mixed with a little water. The Iron can be obtained of any respectable apothecary. Continue taking a Pill and a dose of Iron alternately, until you have taken eight doses of each. During this time apply the Liniment to the affected part as often as once an hour. Twelve hours after taking the last dose of iron, take a tumblerful of soda water; then begin again to take the Pills—taking one every twelve hours—and drink occasionally of soda water. Continue this treatment a day or two after the pain has disappeared, and thus effectually eradicate every lingering trace of the disease.

DIRECTIONS FOR AFFECTIONS OF THE LIVER. Take a sufficient dose of the Pills to operate thoroughly upon the Liver, Stomach and Bowels—three or four Pills usually effect the purpose. Two days after taking the first dose, commence taking them one

every morning and evening, and continue until you have taken the contents of one box. Any one who is troubled with Costiveness, Jaundice, Sick Headache, or any of those affections which are the result of a disordered Stomach and Liver, will derive more benefit from taking one dose of these than from any common cathartic pills, for the reason that they possess more power over the Liver than other medicines.



BILLINGS' RHEUMATIC PILLS

Used in connection with

BILLINGS' RHEUMATIC LINIMENT,

Cure Rheumatism, Gout and Neuralgia. Four of the Pills produce a thorough cathartic effect, operating upon the Stomach, Liver and Bowels. Taken in doses of one Pill, they are a most effectual alterative.

The small size of the Pills is a strong recommendation in their favor.

BILLINGS' RHEUMATIC LINIMENT,

Is an efficacious and safe Liniment. It is pleasant and cleanly to use, as it does not grease or soil the clothing. It is adapted to all the purposes of a family Liniment, and is unsurpassed in curing Lameness, Sprains, Bruises, etc.

It is sold in large sized bottles for fifty cents a bottle.


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